(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the districts identified for the purpose, State-wise; and

(d) the details of the funds allotted for this purpose, during the last three years and the achievements made so far in this regard, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No Sir. However, the Government is implementing various schemes for the development of weaker sections of the society.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Grievances redressal camps for minorities

557. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for Minorities has started holding grievances redressal camps at the State capitals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of such camps held in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the details of the results achieved from these camps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The National Commission for Minorities has started holding Review Meetings with the Officers of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations at the State Capitals since July, 2004. A Review Meeting was held at Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh on 20.8.2004. Of the 16 cases reviewed, 8 cases have been settled.

Welfare of senior citizens

558. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of senior citizens (above 60 years) in the country and its percentage of the total population;

(b) how many of them are living below poverty line and its percentage of the total number of senior citizens;

(c) how many of them have been granted old age pension;

(d) whether Government have formulated a national policy in this regard;

(e) if so, the salient features thereof;

(f) the present status of implementation of the policy; and

(g) what new steps Government propose to take to provide relief and succours to the senior citizens?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) The number of senior citizens (above 60 years) as per the Census of India 2001 is 76, 622, 321. This is 7.45% of India's total population. No data is available regarding the number of older persons below the poverty line.

(c) The total number of beneficiaries under National Old Age Pension Scheme during the year 2004-05 is 61,62,598.

(d) to (f) Yes, Sir. The Government has formulated the National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP), covering all aspects such as financial security, health care and nutrition, shelter/housing, protection of life and property and welfare of elderly. The Government has set up National Council for Older Persons (NCOP) and Inter Ministerial Committee (IMC) with the aim of effective implementation of the National Policy on Older Persons. The Ministry regularly monitors the progress in regard to implementation of NPOP through meetings of NCOP and IMC.

(g) This Ministry is in the process of formulating a legislation aiming to provide maintenance, care and protection of parents and senior citizens.

Orphaned children

559. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of orphaned children in the country, particularly in Maharashtra;